Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Previously presented) A data storage medium, comprising:

a data unit;

a control field within the data unit; and

a control block, separate from the data unit,

wherein the control block comprises an identifier, a first control area for
use if the identifier is recognized, and a second control area for use
if the identifier is not recognized;

wherein the control field comprises at least one bit having a control action
specified by the first control area.

2.   (Original) The data storage medium of claim 1, where the data unit is one of: a sector, an error correction block, and a track.

3.   (Currently amended) A data storage medium, comprising:

a data unit; and

a control block having an identifier, a first control field for use if the
identifier is recognized, and a second control field for use if the
identifier is not recognized; and

a data unit, separate from the control block,

wherein the first control field specifies at least one control bit in the data
unit and specifies a control action associated with the at least one
control bit.

4.   (Original) The data storage medium of claim 3, where the data unit is one of: a sector, an error correction block, and a track.

5.   (Currently amended) A data storage medium, comprising:

~~a data unit;~~

~~a control field within the data unit; and~~

a control block having an identifier, a first control area for use if the
identifier is recognized, and a second control area for use if the
identifier is not recognized;

<u>a data unit, separate from the control block; and</u>

<u>a control field within the data unit,</u>

wherein at least one bit of the control field is specified by the first control
area;

wherein a control action associated with the at least one bit of the control
field is specified by firmware in a drive reading the data storage
medium.

6.   (Currently amended) The data storage medium of claim [[7]] <u>5</u>, where the
data unit is one of: a sector, an error correction block, and a track.

7.   (Currently amended) A method, comprising:

providing, in a control block of a data storage medium, an identifier, a first
control field for use if the identifier is recognized, and a second
control field for use if the identifier is not recognized;

specifying, in the first control field of the control block, at least one control
bit in a data unit stored on the data storage medium<u>, the data unit
separate from the control block</u>; and

specifying, in the first control field of the control block, a control action
associated with the at least one control bit.

8.   (Currently amended) A method for reading a data storage medium,
comprising:

reading a control block of the data storage medium, the control block
having an identifier, a first control field for use if the identifier is

recognized, and a second control field for use if the identifier is not
recognized;

reading an area of the first control field that specifies at least one control
bit in a data unit stored in the data storage medium, the data unit
separate from the control block;

reading an area of the first control field that specifies a control action
associated with the at least one control bit;

reading the at least one control bit in the data unit; and

conforming to the control action associated with the at least one control bit.

9.   (Previously presented) The data storage medium of claim 1, wherein the
control block is written once and wherein the data unit is re-writable.

10.   (Previously presented) The data storage medium of claim 1, wherein the at
least one bit is set such that the control action applies to the data unit.

11.   (Previously presented) The data storage medium of claim 1, wherein the at
least one bit is set such that the control action does not apply to the data unit.

12.   (Previously presented) The data storage medium of claim 1 further
comprising a plurality of data units, wherein the control block specifies which data
units are controlled by the control block.

13.   (Previously presented) The data storage medium of claim 1 wherein the
control action corresponds to password control.

14.   (Previously presented) The data storage medium of claim 13 wherein the
at least one bit is set to enable data associated with the data unit to be sent to a
requesting device if a valid password is provided.

15.   (Previously presented) The data storage medium of claim 13 wherein the at least one bit is set to enable data associated with the data unit to be sent to a requesting device without a valid password being provided.

16.   (Previously presented) The data storage medium of claim 1 wherein the control action corresponds to encryption control.

17.   (Previously presented) The data storage medium of claim 16 wherein the at least one bit is set to enable encrypted data associated with the data unit to be sent to a requesting device.

18.   (Previously presented) The data storage medium of claim 16 wherein the at least one bit is set to enable decrypted data associated with the data unit to be sent to a requesting device.

19.   (Previously presented) The data storage medium of claim 1 wherein the control action corresponds to a combination of password control and encryption control.